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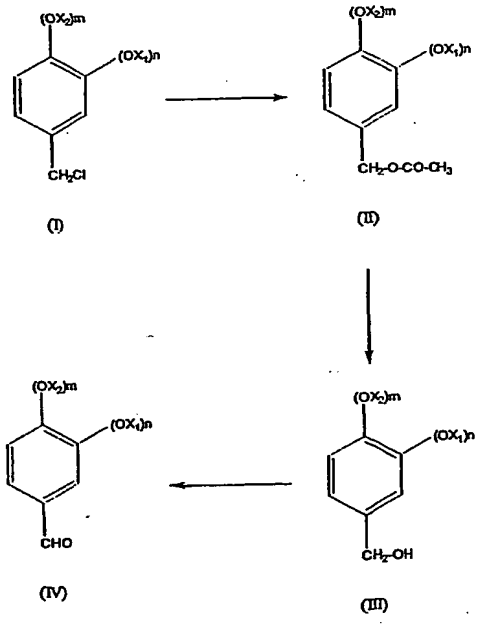
(54) Title: PROCESS FOR SYNTHESISING HELIOTROPINE AND ITS DERIVATIVES



(57) Abstract: A new high-yield, easily industrialized process for synthesising compounds of formula (IV), in which X_1 and X_2, the same or different, are linear or branched C1-C8 alkyls, n and m are 0,1 or 2, with the proviso that n and m are not simultaneously 0; or $(OX_1)n$ and $(OX_2)m$ taken together form an O-T-O group where T is chosen from $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-C(CH_3)_2-$. The process comprises treating a chloromethyl derivative (I) with an alkaline acetate to form the intermediate acetylderivative (II); the intermediate (II) is to hydrolysed to form the alcohol (III); the alcohol (III) is then oxidised in the presence of air and catalysts to obtain the desired derivative (IV). The process runs its course within a short period of time, with high yields and high selectivity; in addition, the process does not require purification and separation of the intermediates and can therefore be favourably conducted in a single batch.

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